



## Chapter 18 Voice



THE  
GUYS IN  
DRAGON'S  
BEARD  
MUST HAVE  
FORCED HER  
TO DO IT  
AFTER  
TSUKASA  
DIED.

RITSU  
WOULD  
NEVER  
CHOOSE  
A JOB  
LIKE THIS  
ON HER  
OWN.

...I  
DIDN'T  
HAVE A  
CHOICE.

THEY  
MUST  
HAVE  
HER ON  
DRUGS,  
TOO.

AND  
SHE'S SO  
APATHETIC.

I HAVE  
TO GET  
HER  
OUT OF  
HERE.

AND  
NOW  
THEY'RE  
FORCING  
HER... TO  
BE WITH  
MEN...

I COULD  
TELL  
MEI AND  
KATSURA...

NO WAY!  
THIS IS MY  
OWN  
PROBLEM!

MAYBE I SHOULD  
GO GET A  
WEAPON AND  
COME BACK... BUT  
WHAT WEAPON?  
WOULD THEY  
ALLOW SOMEONE  
CARRYING A  
WEAPON TO  
COME IN HERE?

IF THEY  
CATCH  
ME  
TAKING  
RITSU  
OUT OF  
HERE...

BUT...  
THERE'S  
BOUND TO  
BE SOME  
BOUNCERS  
AROUND

GEN-SAN IS  
A BOUNSER  
AND I CAME IN  
WITH HIM, SO  
THE PEOPLE  
WORKING HERE  
PROBABLY  
AREN'T ON  
THEIR GUARD

ACTUAL-  
LY, THIS  
IS MY  
CHANCE.

IF I DO,  
MORE GUYS  
WILL JUST  
COME IN  
AND MAKE  
HER...

BUT  
CAN I  
JUST  
LEAVE  
HER  
HERE?

I  
COULD  
BE  
KILLED.

THIS  
PARLOR'S  
PROBABLY  
AFFILIATED  
WITH  
DRAGON'S  
BEARD.



THIS IS  
MY ONLY  
CHANCE.



I CAN'T  
LET THAT  
HAPPEN!!



PITSHU.



.....  
YOU DON'T  
WANT TO BE  
HERE, DO  
YOU?



LET'S  
GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!

IS  
THERE AN  
ENTRANCE  
BESIDES  
THE FRONT  
DOOR?

HOW  
MANY  
BOUNCERS  
ARE  
THERE?













OH, YEAH!  
I JUST  
MOVED

I  
QUIT THE  
RENTAL  
SHOP AND  
I MOVED AT  
A USED BOOK  
STORE  
NOW.



THIS  
AREA IS  
LOWKEY  
HOMIE-  
TOWN'S.

BUT WE  
SHOULD  
BE SAFE  
NOW, I  
THINK.



A LOT  
OF STUFF  
HAPPENED  
AND I JUST  
MOVED IN  
TODAY, SO  
IT'S STILL  
A MESS.



...OH.



YOU'LL  
BE  
OKAY  
NOW.

WELL...



IF RITSU  
BLAMED  
ME AFTER  
SEEING  
TSUKASA  
KILLED IN  
FRONT OF  
HER, I  
COULD'VE  
GIVEN ANY  
EXCUSE.

I DIDN'T  
KILL HIM,  
AFTER  
ALL.

IF I HAD  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT,  
IT  
WOULD'VE  
OCCURRED  
TO ME  
THAT  
RITSU  
MIGHT  
END  
UP IN  
DANGER,  
TOO.

BACK  
THEN,  
WHEN  
TSUKASA  
WAS  
KILLED, I  
SHOULD'VE  
TOLD  
RITSU  
RIGHT  
AWAY.

I SHOULD  
HAVE  
TAKEN HER  
OUT-OF-  
TOWN. I  
WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO  
THAT IF  
TSUKASA  
COULDN'T...

WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
AM I  
DOING?



NO, IT  
WASNT ME'S  
FAULT. IT WAS  
MINE. I JUST  
WANTED TO  
KEEP AT LEAST  
ONE FOOT  
PLANTED IN A  
SAFE PLACE...

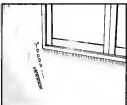
I'M THE  
ONE WHO  
PRETENDED  
I COULDN'T  
SEE RITSUMI!!!

AFTER  
ALL,

EVERY  
PERSON  
HARBORS  
EVIL  
INSIDE,  
RIGHT?

THE  
ONE AT  
FAULT  
IS...







YOU  
MUST BE  
HUNGRY.  
HAVE  
SOME  
FOOD



BITSU!



IT'S  
NOT AS  
GOOD AS  
YOURS,  
THOUGH.















COMPARED  
TO MEI-  
CHAN, I'VE  
NEVER  
REALLY  
LOVED  
ANYONE  
AT ALL.

GOSH,  
SHE'S SO  
CUTE...



I'M  
ROOTING  
FOR YOU!  
EVER!



BUT I'M  
SURE  
HE'LL  
LOVE MEI-  
CHAN.

I DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
MUCH OLDER  
GOHONGI-  
KUN IS...



...





I'M  
SCARED  
TO BE  
ALONE AT  
NIGHT... I'M  
SCARED...

I'M  
SCARED



WHAT'S  
WRONG?

...I WOKED  
UP AND  
IT WAS  
DARK...  
AND  
NOBODY  
WAS  
HERE...



IF I  
CAN  
HAVE  
SOME  
MEDI-  
CINE,  
I'LL BE  
FINE...

AKI...  
IF...



I SEE...  
I'M  
SORRY I  
LEFT YOU  
ALONE.



YOU'LL  
BE FINE.  
I'M HERE  
WITH YOU.

YOU MEAN  
NARCOTICS?  
I DON'T  
HAVE ANY,  
AND THAT  
STUFF'S BAD  
NEWS  
ANYWAY.



...HUSH



HUG



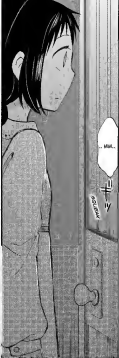
...HOLD  
ME.  
PLEASE.











AH...

≡  
シ  
CREAK

—21—  
TSU...

≡  
シ  
CREAK